## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. POSSIBLE CHANGES IN UN ME PEACEKEEPING STRUCTURE

UNTSO CHIEF OF STAFF LILJESTRAND TOLD CONSUL NEWLIN JULY 28 THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM HAD CONVEYED PLANNED CHANGES IN THE UN MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING SETUP IN A MEETING IN CAIRO JULY 26. THE CHANGES, WHICH MIGHT TAKE PLACE ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1, WOULD:

--MOVE THE POLITICALLY ASTUTE GENERAL SIILASVUO TO JERUSALEM TO COORDINATE UNTSO, UNEF AND UNDOF ACTIV-ITIES: AND

--PLACE LILJESTRAND IN COMMAND OF UNEF.

IN ADDITION, THE UNTSO IS THINKING OF REDUCING THE US AND USSR CONTINGENTS FROM 36 TO 25 MEN EACH. SECRET

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CONSUL'S COMMENT: THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING MAKES SENSE, AS IT WOULD PUT THE SAVVY SIILASVUO IN A POSITION TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH ALL PARTIES AND WOULD IMPROVE OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY OF UN PEACEKEEPKING OPERATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) JERUSALEM 1202 (EXDIS), 7/29.)

## 2. THAILAND: THANAT NOW LAMENTS US MILITARY WITHDRAWAL

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT IN A JULY 28 BANGKOK POST INTERVIEW FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN REVERSED HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN ON THE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND. THANAT SAID THAT WHILE IN THE PAST HE HAS ADVOCATED THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM THAILAND, HE DID NOT HAVE IN MIND A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF THE SORT THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT HAS MADE. HE ADDED:

- --THE RTG SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED SOME TANGIBLE CONCESSIONS FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN RETURN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES.
- --THAILAND SHOULD NOT HAVE BRUISED THE THAI-US RELA-TIONSHIP BY ITS NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTION TO MAYAGUEZ RESCUE EFFORTS.
- --AMERICA'S NEW "PERIPHERAL DEFENSE POLICY" OF KEEPING A STRONG FOOTHOLD ON THE ISLANDS BORDERING MAINLAND ASIA IS NOT TENABLE OR VALID.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THANAT DEFENDED HIS REVERSALS ON US FORCES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE FALL OF INDOCHINA CREATED A NEW SIT-UATION WHICH GAVE HIM THE RIGHT TO CHANGE HIS MIND. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 15369, 7/29.)

## 3. LEBANON: KARAME OUTLINES HIS PLAN FOR REFORM

IN A SPEECH ON JULY 27, PRIME MINISTER KARAME PRESENTED AN AMBITIOUS STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS FOR ADDRESSING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS PRESENTLY BESETTING LEBANON. HE ALSO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC," AN ASSERTION WHICH EMBASSY BEIRUT INTERPRETS AS MORE RHETORIC SECRET

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THAN A GENUINE INTENTION. PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE SPEECH ARE:

- --EFFORTS ARE TO BE MADE TO CHANGE THE GROWING "CONFES-SIONAL CHARACTER" OF THE ARMY (THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT RUMORS OF RESHUFFLING ALREADY IN PROGRESS ARE CURRENT).
- --AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM WILL BE LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE BET-

TER HOUSING FOR THE POOR, ESPECIALLY IN BEIRUT.

--THERE WILL BE INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND COOPERATION WITH THEM TO DIRECT THE EFFORTS OF BOTH AGAINST ISRAEL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: DANGEROUS POLITICAL SHOALS AHEAD MAKE KARAME'S PLAN LITTLE MORE THAN A DECLARATION OF INTENTION AT PRESENT. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS UNQUESTIONABLY SERIOUS IN ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS SOME OF LEBANON'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ILLS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BEIRUT 9571 7/29.)

4. ANGOLA: PORTUGAL IS POWERLESS TO HALT FIGHTING

PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER CARDOSO HAS TOLD CONSUL GENERAL KILLORAN THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE GOP THAT IT DENOUNCE THE ALVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BECAUSE THEY ARE IGNORING IT. HE SAID THE GOP RECOGNIZES THAT THE AGREEMENT IS A DEAD LETTER, AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS INCLUDE:

- --PORTUGUESE MILITARY PACIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY NOW IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO TROOP AND EQUIPMENT REDUCTIONS;
- --THROWING IN WITH THE MPLA AND UNITA AND DECLARING THE FNLA IN REBELLION, HOWEVER UNITA'S STRATEGY IS TO REMAIN UNCOMMITTED:
- --TURNING THE WHOLE PROBLEM OVER TO THE UN.

CARDOSO SAID HE WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA BEFORE OPENLY DENOUNCING ALVOR. HE EXPECTS NOTHING FROM KAMPALA, BUT DOES NOT WANT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO BE ABLE TO SAY THE PORTUGUESE UNDERCUT THEM. SECRET

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MEANWHILE, IN A SPEECH BROADCAST JULY 28, MPLA PRESIDENT NETO SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT A REVISION OF THE ALVOR AGREEMENT IF IT MEANT A FASTER DEPARTURE OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMY AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. (SECRET) LUANDA 1017 (LIMDIS) AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LUANDA 1020, 7/29.)

5. CYPRUS PERMITS RESUMPTION OF FBIS OPERATIONS IN NICOSIA

ON JULY 29 THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS ANNOUNCED THE REOPENING OF THE FBIS RADIO OPERATION AT KARAVAS "AS AN ANNEX OF THE US EMBASSY IN NICOSIA." THE STATEMENT FOLLOWED VERBATIM THE TEXT WHICH AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD PROPOSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHERIDES LAST MONTH. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, A GOC SPOKESMAN STATED:

--THERE IS NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE DECISION --THE AGREEMENT IS SIMPLY A CONFIRMATION OF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS.

--THE GOC DOES NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE OTHER FACILITIES TO THE US.

THE GREEK MEDIA TEND TO LINK THE EVENT TO THE JULY 26 TURK-ISH CYPRIOT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A TAKEOVER OF US INSTALLATIONS, AND ALSO VIEW IT AS EVIDENCE OF A TURN BY NICOSIA TOWARD WASHINGTON.

IN GENERAL, THE HOUSE ACTION ON THE ARMS EMBARGO CONTINUED TO BE OF PRIME INTEREST TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. EDITORIALS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO DRAW DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE "PRO-TURK" ADMINISTRATION, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ATTACKS ON THE SECRETARY AS WELL. THE PRESS IS ALSO MAKING A MAJOR PLAY ON THE TURKISH TAKEOVER OF OUR BASES, WITH ALL STORIES CARRYING AN "IT SERVES YOU RIGHT" TONE. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESS IS, OF COURSE, EXUBERANT AND JINGOISTIC OVER THE TURKISH REACTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 2357 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NICOSIA 2356, 7/29.)

6. UNITED KINGDOM: TRADE UNIONS TO DEBATE GOVERNMENT INFLATION CONTROLS
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THE BRITISH TRADE UNION COUNCIL (TUC) CONGRESS OPENS 1 SEPTEMBER IN LIVERPOOL, WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES THE NUMBER ONE TOPIC. THE ISSUES:

--CAN THE TUC "ESTABLISHMENT" CARRY THE DAY FOR THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF STRONG OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN THE COUNCIL?

--WILL THE UNIONS HOLD THE WAGE LINE DURING THE NEGOTIATING SEASON THIS FALL, AND WILL THEY ACCEPT SOME FORM OF RESTRAINT IN 1977 AND BEYOND?

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SPECTRE OF MOUNTING UNEMPLOYMENT HAS HAD A CHASTENING EFFECT ON UNION LEADERS, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAS A FIGHTING CHANCE. OVER THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, THE UNIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO ACQUIESCE IN A SEMI-PERMANENT INCOMES POLICY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LONDON 11645, 7/29.) INGERSOLL

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